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FARM FACTS

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Final 2000 Tennessee Wheat Production

Tennessee's wheat production for the 2000 crop year is estimated at 20.9 million bushels, a 10 percent increase from the revised final results of wheat last fall and the highest production levels seen in the State since 1988. Tennessee wheat producers sowed 550,000 acres in the

Fall of 1999, of which 380,000 acres were harvested for grain. The remaining 170,000 acres were utilized for silage, hay, or as a cover crop. Wheat yields were once again excellent, coming in at 55 bushels per acre; just one bushel less than last year's revised record yield for the State. Many Tennessee farmers turned their attention to seeding wheat last fall, due to last summer's drought and the unfavorable yields of major crops. With good winter weather and last year's record wheat yield, many farmers decided to seed more wheat. The increase in cotton acreage also contributed to the increase in wheat seedings as a cover crop. Insect and disease pressures were normal for the 2000 season, with some cases of wheat streak mosaic virus and barley yellow dwarf being present. Overall, we had another excellent wheat year.

U.S. Wheat Production: The 2000 winter wheat production is estimated at 1.56 billion bushels. This is down 2 percent from the August forecast and 8 percent below 1999. The U.S. yield dropped 0.4 bushels from August to 44.6 bushels per acre, 3.2 bushels below last year's yield. Acreage for grain is estimated at 35.0 million acres, down 1 percent from both last month and last year.

WINTER WHEAT: TENNESSEE, SURROUNDING STATES, AND U.S., FINAL, 2000 WITH COMPARISONS

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Alabama	90	90	48.0	54.0	4,320	4,860
Arkansas	920	1,100	56.0	54.0	51,520	59,400
Georgia	225	200	43.0	54.0	9,675	10,800
Kentucky	410	420	60.0	57.0	24,600	23,940
Mississippi	165	235	50.0	55.0	8,250	12,925
Missouri	920	950	48.0	52.0	44,160	49,400
North Carolina	580	550	49.0	50.0	28,420	27,500
Tennessee	340	380	56.0	55.0	19,040	20,900
Virginia	240	205	57.0	63.0	13,680	12,915
United States	35,486	35,022	47.8	44.6	1,696,580	1,562,733

NASS Data Making a Difference For Tennessee Farmers:



EPA had been considering stringent application rate reductions for the cotton defoliant DEF, or Tribufos, based on its occupational risk assessment. The rate reductions would have reduced the efficacy of this major cotton defoliant and significantly reduced cotton yields. NASS data on actual DEF use showed that EPA had overestimated pesticide applicator exposure in their analysis; thus, EPA's risk assessment was revised to allow continuation of current application rates and uses for DEF.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters)
Prior to September 15, by Crop, State, and United States, Crop Years 1997-2000

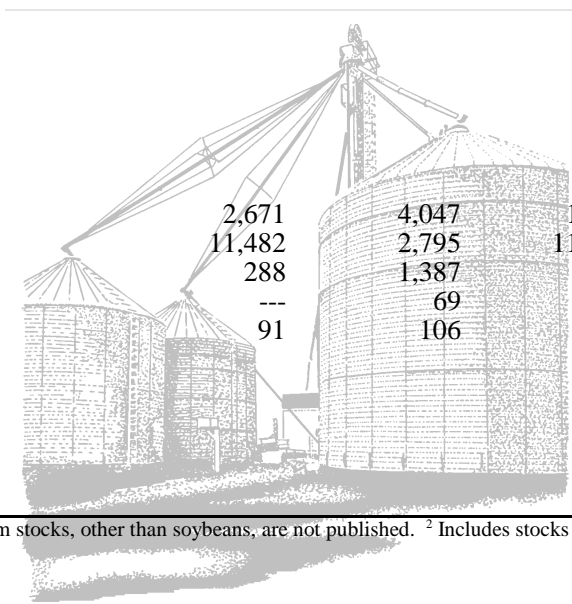
State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Cotton				
AL	---	10,050	5,300	12,200
AZ	23,500	5,900	7,600	25,300
AR	--	13,500	18,200	26,400
CA ¹	5,300	---	---	
FL ¹				
GA	700	18,000	10,800	3,700
LA	3,650	17,950	50,350	122,700
MS	900	42,900	71,200	125,700
MO	---	1,850	12,200	5,200
NM ¹	---	---	---	
NC ¹			---	---
OK ¹	---			
SC ¹	---	10,250		700
Tennessee	---	8,000	7,150	22,250
TX	649,000	609,250	835,300	1,108,000
VA	---	---	---	---
US	683,400	738,500	1,018,350	1,453,850

¹ Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins, but included in the U.S. totals.

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., September 1, 2000 with Comparisons

Crop	Tennessee ¹			United States		
	Sept 1, 1999	Jun 1, 2000	Sept 1, 2000	Sept 1, 1999	Jun 1, 2000	Sept 1, 2000
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks						
Corn				797,000	2,029,800	793,000
Wheat				888,060	226,780	822,690
Soybeans				145,000	370,000	112,500
Grain Sorghum				13,800	27,300	12,200
Oats				97,300	36,000	101,900
Off-Farm Stocks²						
Corn	2,671	4,047	1,320	989,977	1,556,138	922,195
Wheat	11,482	2,795	11,078	1,556,983	722,968	1,542,929
Soybeans	288	1,387	343	203,482	404,425	175,178
Grain Sorghum	---	69	---	51,363	99,606	53,173
Oats	91	106	62	51,151	40,031	49,157
Total Stocks						
Corn				1,786,977	3,585,938	1,715,195
Wheat				2,445,043	949,748	2,365,619
Soybeans				348,482	774,425	287,678
Grain Sorghum				65,163	126,906	65,373
Oats				148,451	76,031	151,057

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks, other than soybeans, are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.



U.S. Hog Inventory Down 1 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2000, was 60.2 million head. This was 1 percent below September 1999, but 1 percent above June 1, 2000. Breeding inventory, at 6.27 million head, was down 1 percent from September 1, 1999, but up 1 percent from June 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 53.9 million head, was 1 percent below last year, but 1 percent above last quarter.

The June-August 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 25.7 million head, was 1 percent less than 1999, and 4 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.90 million head, 1 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.85 pigs saved per litter for the June-August period, compared to 8.86 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the September-November 2000 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, but 4 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for December 2000-February 2001, at 2.89 million sows, are 3 percent above the same period in 2000 and up slightly from 1999.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 33 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 31 percent last year.

U.S. Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.11 billion pounds in August, up 5 percent from the previous record high for August of 3.91 billion pounds produced in 1999. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.26 million head, up 3 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 20 pounds from the previous year, at 1,226 pounds. Calf slaughter totaled 100 thousand head, down 16 percent from August 1999. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 289 pounds. Hog kill totaled 8.62 million head, 3 percent above 1999. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 258 pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 283 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 128 pounds, up 1 pounds from August a year ago.

Livestock Slaughter¹: United States, August 1999 and 2000

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Cattle	3,150	3,260	3,799,015	3,996,582	1,206	1,226
Calves	118	100	32,717	28,796	277	289
Hogs	8,404	8,622	2,132,256	2,221,519	254	258
Sheep & lambs	296	283	37,514	36,190	127	128

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

U.S. Dairy Products Prices Highlights

Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.29 per pound for the week ending September 23. The price per pound increased 0.3 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 39 percent moisture averaged \$1.24 per pound, up 3.7 cents from the previous week.

Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.16 per pound for the week ending September 23. The U.S. price per pound increased 2.0 cents from the previous week.

Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged \$1.01 per pound for the week ending September 23. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.2 cents from the previous week.

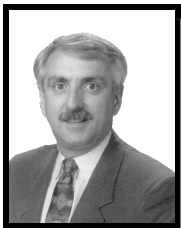
Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 18.6 cents per pound for the week ending September 23. The U.S. price per pound decreased 0.1 cents from the previous week.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., September 2000 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		Sept. 1999	Aug. 2000 ¹	Sept. 2000 ²	Sept. 1999	Aug. 2000 ¹	Sept. 2000 ²
Dollars Per Unit							
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.37	2.11	2.50	2.46	2.31	2.38
Corn	bu.	1.83	1.65	1.65	1.75	1.53	1.55
Cotton Lint	lb.	.591	.455	.444 ³	.462	.513	.490 ³
Soybeans	bu.	4.64	4.64	4.80	4.57	4.45	4.54
All hogs	cwt.	33.00	41.50	39.60	33.90	43.80	41.60
Sows	cwt.	24.00	37.00	36.00	22.80	34.40	33.00
Barrows & gilts	cwt.	34.00	42.00	40.00	34.40	44.40	42.00
All beef cattle	cwt.	55.80	66.60	62.40	63.80	65.50	65.70
Steers/heifers	cwt.	73.00	85.00	80.00	67.10	68.00	68.70
Cows	cwt.	30.00	39.00	36.00	34.60	39.00	37.30
Calves	cwt.	80.00	96.00	90.00	90.90	106.00	104.00
All milk	cwt.	15.90	---	---	15.70	12.60	12.90
Fluid grade	cwt.	15.90	---	---	15.70	12.60	12.90
Manufacture grade	cwt.	14.40	---	---	15.10	10.70	11.10

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on purchases first half of month.

"Farewell", from Gene Danekas



As I leave Tennessee to accept the State Statistician position in Missouri, I think of the many friendships and acquaintances I have made throughout Tennessee agriculture over the past six years. Tough times have fallen on agriculture recently, but the quality of those involved in producing this country's food and fiber remain the backbone of America.

I thank everyone who provides information to TASS for their support and understanding. Without you, the unbiased information necessary to influence decisions may be marginal at best.

Again, thank you for six great years in the Volunteer State.

Gene Danekas
State Statistician